



MINISTER BOWEN IS GIVEN FULL POWER

President Castro Asks Our Representative to Effect Settlement With the Powers

STATE DEPARTMENT ACTION AWAITED

The effort to induce the United States to act as guarantor will probably not succeed—A mere payment of money will not meet Germany's desires for satisfaction. President Castro becomes excited when interviewed regarding the ultimatum.

By Exclusive Wire from The Associated Press. Caracas, Dec. 18.—Lopez Baralt, Venezuelan minister of foreign affairs has transmitted to United States Minister Bowen a document signed by President Castro as constitutional president of the republic, and countersigned by himself as minister of foreign affairs in which Mr. Bowen is recognized as the only representative of Venezuela in the matter of affecting a settlement of the present difficulty.

According to the terms of this document Mr. Bowen may act without restriction, and he is to use all means possible to protect the interests of Venezuela. The document was subjected to correction last night and again this morning before delivery. The state department at Washington has been notified of the transmission of this instrument to Minister Bowen.

Events here are dependent upon the receipt, through the state department of the answers of the governments of Great Britain, Germany and Italy to the proposal of arbitration advanced by Venezuela; these answers are expected to-morrow. Should they be favorable the Venezuelan government strongly desired that a conference of the ambassadors of Great Britain, Germany and Italy to the United States then be held in Washington and that Mr. Bowen leave La Guayra, December 23, for the United States on board the Red "D" line steamer Caracas, which is due to reach New York December 29. Mr. Bowen will meet the ambassadors in Washington. No meeting to discuss terms of settlement is to be held on Venezuelan soil.

Washington, Dec. 18.—President Castro has clothed Minister Bowen with full powers to effect a settlement with Great Britain, Germany and Italy. Mr. Bowen simply awaits the consent of the state department to assume this task, assuming that the nations named are willing that he shall undertake this work.

It is believed that the critical phase of the Venezuelan difficulty is passed. Whether the consent of these governments can be obtained will, it is believed here, depend entirely upon the sufficiency of any guarantee that can be given for the faithful discharge by President Castro of any obligations he may assume as the result of Mr. Bowen's efforts. The allies feel that they must be assured against the consequences of another revolution and the possible repudiation by the president who may follow Castro of his undertakings.

The effort to induce the United States government to act as guarantor, it is safe to say, will not succeed, and it is beginning to appear that there is likely to be a mixed commission appointed to resolve all Venezuelan customs, set apart a certain portion for the maintenance of the Venezuelan government and disburse the remainder among the powers until their obligations are met.

The government of France has now entered the Venezuelan trouble. The French government has, through its ambassadors and charges and ministers, served notice upon the governments of Great Britain, Germany and Italy, and, by way of information, has also told Secretary Hay that any provision made for the settlement of the claims against Venezuela must recognize the pre-eminence of the French claims.

The French government received assurances from the other governments named that any arrangements made would provide for the security of the French interests in the Venezuelan customs.

Germany Not Satisfied. The state department has learned, that, as reported, the Berlin dispatches, a mere money payment will not meet Germany's desires. Count Quadt, the German charge, had a long interview with Secretary Hay today touching Venezuela and the fact is now apparent that while money will satisfy Great Britain and Italy, Germany must have an apology. The difference between her case and that of the other powers is that the German legation at Caracas was attacked, its windows broken, the minister's sick wife terrorized and the German national honor otherwise touched in a manner that cannot be healed by money.

Touche the question of a guarantee of any obligations that may be assumed by Castro as a result of Mr. Bowen's good offices, it is suggested in official circles that the United States being without power in the absence of

legislation to assume fully and responsibly for the execution of Castro's pledges, it is still possible for the state department to give an assurance to any parties who might be induced to produce the money to pay the judgments against Castro that when the time comes for re-payment, the United States government would exercise its good offices to see that the obligations were kept. It is distinctly stated, however, that no pledge will be made on the part of the United States to forcibly collect any indebtedness of this kind.

Castro Is Angry. Caracas, Dec. 18.—Early this morning the correspondent of the Associated Press saw President Castro and questioned him regarding the report published in the United States that the Anglo-German ultimatum had been accepted by Venezuela. The president became very angry and said there was no truth in the report. He added: "The acceptance of an ultimatum cannot be coupled with arbitration. Besides, the Anglo-German ultimatum is not, properly speaking, an ultimatum. When asked if it was true that Venezuela was taking diplomatic steps to arrange for arbitration and that arrangements in this connection were well advanced, President Castro remarked: "The government of Venezuela does not propose to determine on any steps while the proposition for arbitration that the legation of the United States was charged to present to Great Britain and Germany remains unanswered."

Anti-War Party in London. London, Dec. 18.—The executive committee of the British branch of the International Union passed a resolution this evening, which was introduced by W. T. Smead, expressing regret that Great Britain had entered into war with Venezuela without attempting to secure arbitration in accordance with the Hague peace convention, and urging the people of the United States to protest against war being made upon any American state prior to the submission of the case to arbitration. Copies of the resolution will be sent to Lord Lansdowne and Secretary Hay.

WAR BLOCKADE IN EFFECT TOMORROW

But Will Not Indicate That Minister Bowen's Efforts Have Been Unsuccessful.

By Exclusive Wire from The Associated Press. Caracas, Dec. 18.—It has been learned from an official source that the allies today will notify the Venezuelan authorities at La Guayra of the blockade, to become effective Saturday, Dec. 20, 3 p. m., of the ports of La Guayra, Puerto Cabello, Coro, Maracaibo, Curupano and Barcelona.

Washington, Dec. 18.—As understood here the blockade to be declared by the allies against Venezuela on Saturday is to be a "war blockade," as contrasted with the "peace blockade," which has been in operation since the trouble with Venezuela assumed an acute stage. Ordinarily a "war blockade" is preceded by a declaration of war, but at times this formality is dispensed with and a blockade maintained just as though war had been formally declared. To all intents and purposes war has existed and such condition has been recognized by the governments of the allies. A formal declaration that a blockade has been established will be sent to all the powers and it will be recognized by the United States government. Following the practice in such case, this government will maintain an attitude of neutrality towards the belligerents, which they practically become by the establishment of the blockade, whether a presidential proclamation announcing our neutrality will be issued has not yet been decided upon. The matter will come up for definite determination very soon. Our government is fully informed of the intention of the allies in the movements they are making in the operations against Venezuela.

The notice about to issue of the formal blockade of the Venezuelan ports is not understood here to mean that Minister Bowen's efforts to adjust the Venezuelan difficulty have failed. It was conceived that the naval commanders of the powers were acting under explicit instructions, which included the establishment of a blockade, and it was not expected that these instructions would be suspended until the negotiations through diplomatic channels had assumed a phase indicative of a final and satisfactory adjustment. As Minister Bowen has only today been appealed to, to endeavor to effect such an adjustment, he has had as yet no opportunity of moving forward in his negotiations to a point where he might reasonably expect the allied powers to cancel completely the requirements of their punitive programme. Therefore, it is to be expected that the threatened blockade will be duly published next Saturday, unless in the meantime Minister Bowen is able to effect sufficient assurances that the Venezuelan government is ready to meet the terms of their ultimatum.

It can be stated positively that these assurances will not include a direct guarantee by the United States of Venezuela's liabilities.

VENEZUELAN VESSEL DISABLED

Destruction of the Victoria Causes Great Indignation at Maracaibo.

By Exclusive Wire from The Associated Press. La Guayra, Dec. 18.—The German cruiser Falke, which has been anchored for the past two days at the entrance of Lake Maracaibo, today captured the Venezuelan schooner Victoria. After cutting down her main mast, thus dis-

abling her, the Germans abandoned the vessel. This action has caused great indignation among the Venezuelans and excitement runs high at Maracaibo, where the people have been parading the streets uttering cries against Great Britain and Germany.

THE COAL FAMINE IN SCHENECTADY.

Merchants May Be Obligated to Close Their Doors.

By Exclusive Wire from The Associated Press. Schenectady, N. Y., Dec. 18.—Local coal dealers say there is no hope of the coal famine being relieved this season. Today a delegation went to Albany to appeal to the sales agent of the Delaware and Hudson company for an increase in the allotment for this city. Merchants say if they cannot get coal they will have to close their stores. The depot opened by the Citizens' association was again thronged today, well-to-do persons thronging elbows in the most abject manner in the quest for coal.

It was announced that no more coal would be forthcoming from this source. This fact is due to a visit to Albany by local dealers, who pointed out that the association was injuring their trade.

FRANCE ADDRESSES NOTE

Her Position Regarding Claims Is Stated—Will Make No Demonstration Against Venezuela.

By Exclusive Wire from The Associated Press. Washington, Dec. 18.—It was learned tonight that France has addressed a note to her charge d'affaires at Caracas for submission to the Venezuelan government, stating the position she will maintain with reference to claims of other citizens against Venezuela. France makes no distinction between claims arising before Castro's assumption of power and those arising since. The claims of France prior to Castro's administration, it is agreed, are to be settled by arbitration. The claims arising since 1899, when Castro became president, should have as favorable treatment as is given to claims of Germany, Great Britain and other countries. As to claims prior to 1899, France says that Great Britain had agreed to arbitrate. Copies of the note will be sent to Lord Lansdowne and Secretary Hay.

In the note sent to Caracas, France takes the position that claims arising since 1899, when Castro became president, should have as favorable treatment as is given to claims of Germany, Great Britain and other countries. As to claims prior to 1899, France says that Great Britain had agreed to arbitrate. Copies of the note will be sent to Lord Lansdowne and Secretary Hay.

DINNER AT THE WHITE HOUSE.

President and Mrs. Roosevelt Entertain in Honor of the Cabinet.

By Exclusive Wire from The Associated Press. Washington, Dec. 18.—The president and Mrs. Roosevelt gave a dinner at the white house tonight in honor of the cabinet, to which a large number of other guests also were invited. It was the first formal evening function at the white house since its remodeling and gave the guests an opportunity to view the many changes which have been made in the interior of the mansion. The table was set in the new state dining room, which has been considerably enlarged. The table was set in the form of a semi-circle and the decorations were mainly red and white roses. The guests included members of the cabinet and their wives, senators and representatives of the various states, and a number of personal friends of the president and Mrs. Roosevelt. Senator and Mrs. Quay and Representative and Mrs. Dulz were among the guests.

The guests found many changes had been made in the interior of the house since last summer.

BANQUET OF BANKERS.

Five Hundred Members and Guests Dine at the Waldorf-Astoria.

By Exclusive Wire from The Associated Press. New York, Dec. 18.—William Barrett Ridgely, controller of the currency; President Woodrow Wilson, of Princeton university, the Rev. Dr. Robert S. MacArthur, Major General Adna R. Chaffee and John S. Wise were the principal speakers at the banquet of the New York State Bankers' association given at the Waldorf-Astoria tonight. Five hundred members and guests of the association were present.

Controller Ridgely spoke on "Elasticity in the Currency." "The Elasticity of the University to Business," was the subject of Dr. Wilson's address. Dr. MacArthur spoke on "Bankers, the Promoters and Conservators of Civilization." General Chaffee spoke on "Experience With Banks and Bankers," and Mr. Wise, on "Something Which Bankers Do Not Know."

DEATHS OF A DAY.

By Exclusive Wire from The Associated Press. Philadelphia, Dec. 18.—William J. R. former receiver of taxes of this city died today at his home in Torresdale, a suburb. Mr. Roney was stricken with apoplexy while lunching at the Union League, this city, on December 8. Mr. Roney was born in this city. At the age of 77 years he enlisted in the Union army and was mustered out in 1865. He represented the Eighth district in the state legislature from 1874 to 1876. Mr. Roney was a member of the Masonic fraternity, the Grand Army of the Republic, and the Order of Old Fellows.

New York, Dec. 18.—General Wager Swaney died this afternoon at his residence here of a complication of diseases. His widow, two sons and a daughter were at the death bed.

Tacoma, Wash., Dec. 18.—Franklin S. Whitney, state organizer for the American Federation of Labor, and treasurer of the state federation, died today of typhoid pneumonia, aged 28 years.

PARLIAMENT PROROGUED

King Edward's Speech Reviews the Conduct of Affairs with Venezuela.

REGRETS THAT ACTION HAS BEEN NECESSARY

Complaints to the Government of Venezuela in Regard to Unjustifiable Acts Against British Subjects During the Past Two Years Have Been Disregarded—The Course Pursued by Venezuela Made Concerted Action Desirable—King Also Refers to Transvaal.

By Exclusive Wire from The Associated Press.

London, Dec. 18.—Parliament was prorogued this afternoon, until Feb. 17, by royal commission. Only a score of members of the House of Commons were present when Black Rod summoned the lower house to the House of Lords to hear the king's speech.

The speech was an unusually long recapitulation of public events since January, including the action taken in connection with Venezuela. Regarding the speech said: "I regret that the constant complaints which our government found it necessary to address to the government of Venezuela in regard to unjustifiable and arbitrary acts against British subjects and property during the last two years have been persistently disregarded and that it has become necessary for our government, acting in concert with that of his imperial majesty the German Emperor, which also has serious causes for complaint against the republic, to insist on measures of redress."

The speech refers to the conclusion of the South African war, and adds: "The fact seems to be that the Transvaal and Orange River colonies have yet experienced any visit these regions and that all sections of the population may live together in friendship for each other and loyalty to the British crown."

Paragraphs dealing with the postponed coronation, the colonial conference and Colonial Secretary Chamberlain's tour, which together are expected to be of the "utmost value, both in respect to their immediate effect and as precedents in the future."

As to promising to "secure not only for this country but for the commerce of the world valuable facilities and advantages." The speech closes with a reference to India, where the anxiety regarding famine has been alleviated by a plentiful rainfall, and where the Corporation Durbars will be associated with a period of unusual commercial and financial prosperity.

The speech entirely omits the usual reference to foreign relations. Other topics touched upon were the expedition against the Mad Mullah and the co-operation of Italy therein, the acceptance by Chili and Argentina of the British boundary award, the Brussels sugar convention, and the alliance between Great Britain and Japan. The speech expresses the belief that the present situation is a step towards the maintenance of general peace in the extreme East.

RESULTS OF COAL FAMINE.

Washington People Suffer from Colds and Pneumonia.

By Exclusive Wire from The Associated Press. Washington, Dec. 18.—A material increase in the number of cases of pneumonia and severe colds among the people of this city is attributed to the coal famine, according to a number of physicians interviewed today. They say that in most of the houses they visit only a few of the rooms are heated. Even in many of the homes of the well-to-do residents furnaces have had to be abandoned.

The price of hard coal from the independent operators to-day was \$12 a ton. Soft coal at retail brought \$8 a ton and many of the dealers are unable to furnish even small lots to regular customers.

NOTES OF CONGRESS.

By Exclusive Wire from The Associated Press.

Washington, Dec. 18.—The senate committee on education and labor today agreed on a four-year term for the eight-year bill. The agreement was reached after many hearings and three days of executive sessions. Many amendments have been introduced. Representative Hill, of Connecticut, today introduced a joint resolution providing for a drawback on all coal into the United States at Atlantic ports until June 30, 1903.

The conference of the senate and the house of representatives on the Antislavery Coal Strike commission have reached an agreement. The report will be made on Saturday. It is understood most of the senate amendments were retained.

The house today passed the bill to reduce the duties on the products of the Philippine Islands coming into the United States from 5 per cent. of the Dingley rates (the present duties) to 2 1/2 per cent. of those rates. The discussion of the bill was accompanied by considerable maneuvering on the Democratic side to secure test votes on various amendments designed to lower the tariff barrier still further, and a record vote was forced on a motion to recommit with instructions to report a bill providing for absolute free trade with the islands. The division on this proposition was on party lines, with the exception of Mr. McFall (Rep., Mass.) who voted with the Democrats. The motion was defeated 91 to 122.

WORK OF BOARD OF PARDONS.

John J. Robinson, of Luzerne, Among Those Who Are Released.

By Exclusive Wire from The Associated Press. Harrisburg, Dec. 18.—The board of pardons today refused to commute the death sentence of Mrs. Kate Edwards, of Berks county, to life imprisonment. Mrs. Edwards is alleged to have killed her husband, and ten of the twelve jurors, which convicted her, recommended the commutation of sentence. The board also refused to recommend pardons for Michael Sentman, Philadelphia, assault and battery; John O. Dully, Philadelphia, second degree murder; Andrew Skisko, Luzerne, arson; John R. Brooks, Philadelphia, forgery; Albert West and Robert Kilpatrick, Delaware, first degree murder; John Szoyak, Allegheny, second degree murder.

Re-hearings were refused in the cases of William Penn Bowman, Luzerne, first degree murder, and D. Knight Finley, abduction and conspiracy, Philadelphia. Pardons were recommended for James Gillespie, Schuylkill, burglary; Harry J. Hannah, Westmoreland, murder in second degree; John C. Gifford, Allegheny, assault and battery; John J. Robinson, Luzerne, murder in second degree; Michael Hart, Clearfield, murder in second degree; Amos K. Rhoads, Berks, embezzlement; John Rommelle, Philadelphia, murder in second degree.

The case of Daniel H. Bean, Allegheny, perjury, and Harry W. Brubaker, Lebanon, felony, were held under advisement.

THE STONES RECEIVE.

A Reception and Dance Given in Honor of Miss Jean Stone.

By Exclusive Wire from The Associated Press. Harrisburg, Pa., Dec. 18.—A reception and dance was given by Governor and Mrs. Stone in honor of their daughter, Miss Jean Stone, this evening at the executive mansion. The decorations were surprisingly beautiful, the greens and the flowers contrasting prettily with the red and blues of the ball room and the reception room. There were present 200 guests, including state officials, members of the governor's staff and Major-General Miller and sent in full uniform. Governor and Mrs. Stone were assisted in receiving by Miss Rodgers and Miss Doty, of Pittsburg; Miss Pealy, of Washington; Miss White, of Williamsport; Miss Winter, of Indianapolis, and Miss Swindell, of Baltimore. The reception was the last one to be tendered by Governor and Mrs. Stone and surpassed any of the brilliant entertainments given in the mansion during the Stone administration.

INSPECTOR BISHOP'S REPORT.

No Girls Employed at Scranton Silk Mills Under Age.

By Exclusive Wire from The Associated Press. Harrisburg, Dec. 16.—Factory Inspector Campbell received a report today from Deputy Factory Inspector E. W. Bishop, whom he sent to Scranton to ascertain if the girls employed of the silk mill told the truth when they testified before the coal strike commission that they were under thirteen years of age and yet were allowed to work, which is against the factory inspection law.

Mr. Bishop reports that he secured the certificates sworn to by the parents of these girls before the children were allowed to work and all showed that the parents represented their age to be over the legal limit. Proceedings may be brought against the parents for perjury.

MR. SHRAFROTH'S PLAN.

He Would Guarantee Payment of the Venezuelan Claims.

By Exclusive Wire from The Associated Press. Washington, Dec. 18.—Representative Shraffroth (Colorado), appeared before the committee on foreign affairs to-day to urge action on a joint resolution which he introduced authorizing the president to propose to Great Britain and Germany to arbitrate their claims against Venezuela to arbitration and to guarantee the payment of the awards. Mr. Shraffroth said that war in South America would make the violation of the Monroe doctrine probable. Mr. Shraffroth expressed the opinion that the claims in Venezuela would not be paid until the United States guaranteed payments of whatever demands may be made. "Castro's proposal is inadequate," he said, "unless accompanied by a guarantee by the United States. It can be given by no other nation and by no body of men in Venezuela now."

Gillespie Was Innocent.

By Exclusive Wire from The Associated Press. Pottsville, Pa., Dec. 18.—A pardon has been recommended for James Gillespie, who has served two years in prison here for a crime of which he was innocent. In January, 1901, Gillespie was convicted of burglary and sentenced to seven years imprisonment. It has developed that he was in Sunbury on the night of the burglary. Gillespie is a member of a prominent Wilkes-Barre family.

Drowned in the Schuylkill.

By Exclusive Wire from The Associated Press. Pottsville, Pa., Dec. 18.—Joseph and Walter East, aged 7 and 9 years respectively, were drowned in the Schuylkill river while coasting at Schuylkill Haven. They were unable to control the sled, which left the bank and carried them into the stream.

President Receives Teachers.

By Exclusive Wire from The Associated Press. Washington, Dec. 18.—President Roosevelt today received one hundred and fifty teachers from Susquehanna county, presented by Representative Wright. Later the president received the students of the Pennsylvania State Normal school, located at Bloomsburg.

Carried Life Insurance.

By Exclusive Wire from The Associated Press. Louisville, Ky., Dec. 18.—It developed today that R. C. Whayne, a Louisville businessman, who was found dead last night with a gunshot wound in his breast, carried \$50,000 life insurance.

SUFFERINGS OF THE NON-UNION WORKERS

THREATENED STRIKE AVERTED

Action of International Officers Prevents Disaster for Schenectady.

By Exclusive Wire from The Associated Press. Schenectady, N. Y., Dec. 18.—The threatened strike in the General Electric Works here, it is now understood has been averted through the action of the international officers of the allied metal mechanics and of the kindred unions, who have now taken the matter in charge. The proposition of the union is that an agreement be entered into between the General Electric company and the unions providing that if the company will not declare a lock-out, the men will promise not to go on strike. Hereafter all matters that may fall into dispute are to be submitted to a commission, comprising the president of the company, C. A. Coffin, of New York, John Mulholland, president of the International Association of Mechanicals and one other person to be chosen on each occasion in question. The award of this commission is to be final. Edward Tug, whose discharge precipitated the trouble will, it is said, not return to work, but will become the state organizer of the allied mechanics' union.

THE CASE OF LAURA BIGGAR

Testimony Given in Favor of Actress. Samuel Stanton Swears He United Miss Biggar and Bennett in 1887

By Exclusive Wire from The Associated Press.

Freehold, N. J., Dec. 18.—In the trial of Laura Biggar, Dr. Charles C. Hendricks and former Justice of the Peace Samuel Stanton for having conspired, as alleged, to secure possession of the estate of the late Henry M. Bennett, opened before Judge Holsley in the quarter sessions court this morning. Mrs. Mary Roche, who formerly kept house for Mr. Bennett in Seventy-second street, New York, was the first witness called. She testified that in 1890 Mr. Bennett told her that he would occupy one of the flats in his apartment house in Seventy-second street, New York, with his wife. The witness said that later in the same year Miss Biggar showed her a certificate of her marriage with Mr. Bennett.

Dr. James G. Conley, of Bayonne, who was called yesterday by the defense and who swore that he saw Miss Biggar accouchee of a male child at Dr. Hendrick's sanitarium, was recalled for cross-examination by the state. The prosecutor failed utterly to shake his testimony as to his having been present at the birth of the child.

Joseph Rickert, proprietor of the Park Hotel at Mount Pleasant, Mich., testified that on Dec. 15, 1900, Mr. Bennett and Miss Biggar stayed at his hotel. He said that Mr. Bennett registered for himself and Miss Biggar as "Henry M. Bennett and wife." The register was produced in court and the state acknowledged that the signature was that of Mr. Bennett. C. E. O. Keeter, a manufacturer of artificial teeth in New York, testified that on June 17, 1901, he called on Mr. Bennett at the latter's stock farm in Farmingdale, N. J., to measure him for a leg. On that occasion Mr. Bennett introduced Miss Biggar as his wife.

Stanton's Testimony.

When Samuel Stanton, one of the defendants, was called, Miss Biggar looked steadfastly at him as he took the witness chair. Stanton testified that he was a justice of the peace from 1887 to 1890, and that on Jan. 2, 1888, Bennett and Miss Biggar called at his house, 117 Monroe street, Hoboken, at about 10:30 p. m., and asked witness to marry them. Stanton said he had never met the couple before, and he called in Elizabeth Webber, a servant, to act as witness. After he had performed the marriage ceremony Stanton said he gave the bride a marriage certificate. About a year later she came to him and stated that she had lost the marriage certificate and asked him to give her another.

Witness then went on to explain why at the highest Joseph Tucker, secretary of the Board of Health in Bayonne, he met Lawyer Alexander Young, of Jersey City, there, and that Young told him a prominent man of New York City had been married in Young's office and he wanted to file an antedated marriage certificate to save the young woman's name, who was soon to become a mother. Stanton said Young offered him \$25 if he would make out the required certificate. The witness said he refused.

The witness told about Young going to the office of Joseph Tucker, whom he tried to induce to "doctor up" any book in his office, so that he (Young) could get the marriage of Miss Biggar and Bennett on the records, also, that Young filled out a blank marriage certificate which Tucker gave him. On cross-examination Stanton said Miss Biggar wrote to him for a second marriage certificate last summer and that he received \$5 for making it out.

Mr. Vanderbilt's Condition.

By Exclusive Wire from The Associated Press. New York, Dec. 18.—The physicians in attendance upon Cornelius Vanderbilt, issued the following bulletin at 7:30 o'clock tonight: "Mr. Vanderbilt, so far, is standing the complication as well as we can reasonably expect. He is no worse than he was at noon."

Fatal Coasting Accident.

By Exclusive Wire from The Associated Press. Gettysburg, Dec. 18.—Dora Thorne, aged 17 years, while coasting, slipped from her sled, falling into a deep pool, and was drowned.

Told Mine Strike Commission of What They Had to Endure During Recent Strike.

BOYCOTTING, THREATS AND INTIMIDATION

These Were Supplemental by All Manner of Assaults—House of Joseph Hoffman, of Drifton, Was Invaded by Strikers Who Overturned the Stove and Set the House on Fire—Sorry Story Related by George Groszewicz, of This City. George W. Bowen, the Poet, Had an Extremely Unpoetic Experience.

Tales of the sufferings of non-union men and their families during the strike formed the burden of the testimony before the mine strike commission, yesterday. More than a score of witnesses told of their sorry experiences, of assaults, boycotting, threats, intimidation and petty annoyances uncounted. The direct examinations were conducted by Attorneys Joseph O'Brien and John T. Lenahan. The miners' attorneys did not do much cross-examining, contenting themselves with an occasional effort to make it appear that union men did not commit the violence.

There was considerable objection on the part of the miners' attorneys because the evidence tending to prove boycotting was for the most part indirect, but the commission refused to sustain the objections.

Chairman Gray said the commission was not bound by any strict rules of evidence, but would like counsel to confine themselves as far as possible to direct evidence.

It was difficult, he said, in proving the existence of boycotts, to get the best evidence on the subject. The commission, he said, wanted to know about the alleged reign of terror during the strike, and realized it would be impossible to get information about it from witnesses if the strict rules of evidence were applied.

"The coward who will go to the storekeepers," said he, "and warn them not to sell the necessities of life to a woman, whose husband chooses to work, can be counted upon to seek the obscurity which the rules of evidence provides for him. If a girl is discharged from her position in a store because she rode on a street car during a street car strike, the coward who discharged her is coward enough to refuse to testify."

Realizes the Cause.

He recognized, he said, why some merchants will not come forward and force them to refuse to sell necessities of life to boycotted persons, but if he were a storekeeper, he thought, he would risk his all to assist in breaking up the cowardly boycott business.

The fact that the commission is about to close its sessions and that yesterday's attendance being the largest since the opening days of the hearings. In the afternoon the crowd in the court room was as large as that of any day since the hearings began, and many who could not gain admission were turned away.

President Mitchell, of the mine workers, returned from the west and was present during both sessions. The first witness of the day was Fred Reynolds, who was a pumprunner during the strike at the Bellevue colliery of the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western company in this city. John Francis, a union man, shot at him four times, on July 5, after having threatened a few days before that he would kill him if he did not stop work. Francis was tried and convicted, and sentenced to three months in jail and a fine of \$25.

Joseph Hoffman, of Drifton, went on strike, but when the union refused to give him any financial assistance, he was forced to return to work. One night a crowd of fifty or sixty attacked his home. He crawled to the garret, broke through the roof, crawled across to a neighbor's house and escaped. He went six miles through the woods to his mother's home in Eckley. When the crowd forced an entrance to his house and found him gone, it smashed the furniture and terrorized his wife and children.

On cross-examination, Mr. McCarthy sought to make it appear that the attack was made by a crowd of miscellaneous youths, who had been drinking a keg of beer in an adjacent field. The witness could not see it that way.

YESTERDAY'S WEATHER.

Local data for December 18, 1902:

Highest temperature.....31 degrees

Lowest temperature.....30 degrees

Relative humidity.....85 per cent.

P. M. maximum.....35 per cent.

Precipitation, 24 hours ended 8 p. m., trace.

WEATHER FORECAST.

Washington, Dec. 18.—Forecast for Friday and Saturday: Eastern Pennsylvania—Fair Friday and Saturday; fresh west to northwest winds, becoming variable.